

COUNCIL BRIEFS

September 23, 2016

Best Place to Live in America! West Hartford has earned the no. 15 spot on *Money* Magazine's ranking of the "[Best Places to Live](#)" in the United States, up from no. 45. The list included all U.S. towns and cities with populations of 50,000 to 300,000, for a pool of 823 to start. The list was drilled down to the Top 50 in America using 60 data points in the following categories: jobs, economy, housing affordability, education, health, crime, arts and leisure, and ease of living. West Hartford was one of three Connecticut towns that made the list, and one of five from New England. West Hartford ranked higher than all five.

West Hartford was praised for its outstanding schools, entertainment choices, shopping and dining districts, short commute times, charming housing stock, affordable housing projects, and Playhouse on Park, which has grown into a regionally acclaimed institution.

Let's Talk Trash: The Department of Public Works invited West Hartford residents to participate in a seven-question survey to measure awareness in preparation of long-range planning strategies for waste reduction. The survey received 909 responses during the one-week period of August 12-19, 2016.

Here are the results:

1. Do you know where your trash goes after it is collected? 51.87% didn't know; 23.6% thought it was buried in CT; 2.5% said it was buried out of state; 1.6% didn't care. Only 20.4% answered correctly that trash is burned and the ash is buried somewhere.
2. What is the most pressing issue regarding waste and recycling? 49.6% environmental sustainability; 15.7% cost of service; 15.2% available options, 10.8% quality of service, and 8.7% awareness of issues.
3. Did you know Connecticut's waste disposal capacity is shrinking? 39.8% Yes; 53.3% No; 4.6% don't believe it; and 2.3% don't care.
4. Do you support waste reduction programs? 89.8% Yes; 5.1% No; 1.6% don't care; and 3.3% gave no response.
5. How many bags of trash are in your barrel each week? 60.8% 1-3 bags; 26.4% 4-6 bags; 4.8% 7-10 bags; and 8% other.
6. What is your trash-to-recycling ratio? 31.5% 50/50; 14.4% 75/25; 47.9% 25/75; 6.2% other.
7. 271 people said they would be interested in a community conversation on waste reduction.

Judy Bierly receives the "Build No Fences"

Award: The Bridge Family Center presented Judy Bierly with the annual Build No Fences award at its 'Breakfast on the Bridge' event on September 14, recognizing her 23 years of service. The award is presented to an individual who sees no boundaries while working collaboratively with child advocates in an effort to support young people and their families.

LED Light Bulb Swap: Using a Bright Idea Grant earned through Energize CT's Clean Energy Communities Program, the West Hartford Clean Energy Task Force is sponsoring two LED light bulb swaps. Bring in your old incandescent or compact fluorescent light bulbs and exchange them for new energy-efficient LEDs (limit five per household). Proof of West Hartford residency is required. The dates are:

* Monday, September 26, 3:00-7:00 PM
Bishops Corner Senior Center, 15 Starkel Rd.

* Saturday, October 1, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM,
Elmwood Community Center, Auditorium,
1106 New Britain Ave.

Upcoming special events:

8th Annual Firefighters Grill & Beer Tasting
benefiting MDA, Saturday, September 24, 5:00-9:00 PM, Town Hall front lawn

Household Hazardous Waste Collection,
Saturday, September 24, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM,
DPW, 17 Brixton Street

Park Road Parade, Saturday, October 1,
10:30-11:30 AM

Ronald F. Van Winkle
Town Manager